THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE

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# Lebanon

This booklet focuses on the Phoenician Route in Lebanon.

https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/the-phoenicians-route

http://fenici.net/en/on-the-route-eng/

http://fenici.net/en/?s=lebanon

https://lcf.lau.edu.lb/images/smart-ways-lebanon-by-the-phoenicians-route.pdf

http://lcf.lau.edu.lb/

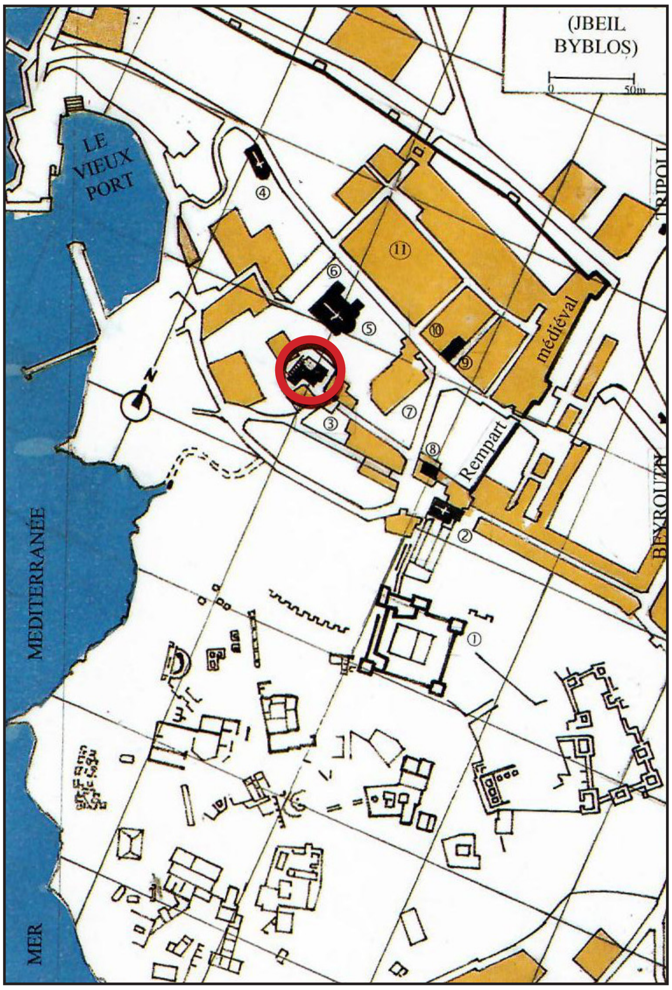
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1 - Crusader Castle, heritage site
2- Saydat Al-Bouwebe Church
3- LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation
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**"EDUCATION IS AT THE CORE OF THE LAU-CARDAHI FOUNDATION'S MISSION".**

The foundation welcomes researchers, students and all visitors who wish to learn more about Byblos over the centuries and relevant topics on Lebanon. Our interactive workshops and lectures on historical, archeological, architectural, and urban studies of Byblos and other heritage cities in Lebanon and the broader region, combined with our art exhibitions – featuring paintings, photography, sculpture, cultural artefacts and international competitions – bring Byblos City to life. Anyone who comes through our doors, whether on a visit or for a workshop, will benefit from our digital library and museum.

**LIST OF CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE PHOENICIANS' ROUTE**

http://fenici.net/en/about-us-2/list-of-current-members/#1516019456001-cc71dc35-b904

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**The Phoenicians' Route** (http://fenici.net/en/about-us-2/) **refers to the connection of the major nautical routes which, since the twelfth century BC, were used by the Phoenicians as essential routes** for trade and cultural communication in the Mediterranean. Through these routes, the Phoenicians - genial sailors and merchants - gave origin to a great civilization, for some verses still little known, that asserted itself through an expansion towards the West, producing an intense exchange of manufactured articles, people and ideas and contributing in ancient times to the creation of a koine, a Mediterranean cultural community and to the circulation of this culture. But also, other great Mediterranean civilizations used these routes for the same purpose: Greeks, Romans, Etruscans, Iberians and many others. So, these routes have become an integral and essential part of the Mediterranean culture.

The LAU-Louis Cardahi Foundation, in its capacity as an active member of the scientific committee with the Confederation of the Council of Europe, will seek to sustain the development of the project according to protocols that include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

a) Scientific and creative role: mapping and defining the Phoenician Cultural Heritage Route within and among Lebanese cities and providing studies and descriptions of monuments (Assist Documentation according to the Hague Convention).
b) Academic and communicative role: training local communities and providing interdisciplinary expertise to:
- Foster the preservation of cultural heritage by providing prevention know-how against damage to cultural heritage, in support of law enforcement agencies.
- Provide training programs for cultural heritage awareness, offering specialized competencies and targeted curricula.
- Increase public participation by means of the latest technologies and tools to enhance public involvement.
- Promote intercultural dialogue.
- Develop Information Technology centers and/or tourism centers within relevant municipalities that would cater to cultural tourism activities in Lebanon to promote the protection of archaeological sites and the preservation of historical buildings and monuments.

**The International Confederation:**
Contact: http://fenici.net/en/contact-2/
How to Adhere: http://fenici.net/en/about-us-2/confederation/

**The Phoenician Route Lebanon: Tripoli, Anfeh, Batroun, Byblos, Jounieh, Beirut, Sidon, Tyre & Baalbek.**

Lebanon's history has been shaped by its strategic location at the crossroads between the East and the West, and as the gateway to the Middle East.

It was the homeland of the Canaanites/Phoenicians – the inventors of the alphabet – whose civilization thrived on the east coast of the Mediterranean for more than 1000 years until the conquest of the Levant. The country has witnessed the rise and fall of multiple civilizations who have left their mark on Lebanon's rich cultural heritage. Ancient Egyptians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks, and Ottomans have succeeded each other in ruling the land. At the fall of the Ottoman Empire, Lebanon was briefly under the French mandate in the Levant before gaining its independence in 1943.

From their earliest days in Byblos, the Phoenicians developed a unique and legendary society around their sea trade and much-loved cedar, founding cities in Tripoli, Batroun, Beirut, Sidon, Tyre and, later, along the Lebanese coast. Inland, they ventured high into the Lebanon Mountains and down the eastern side into the Beqaa Valley, establishing the city of Baalbek and other sites in the Beqaa region.

**The Phoenicians' Route – Lebanon: Tripoli, Anfeh, Batroun, Byblos, Jounieh, Beirut, Sidon, Tyre & Baalbek.**

**Tripoli**
Attractions in the area of Tripoli: Bcharri, Wadi Qadisha, Menjez and Arqa

**Anfeh**
Attraction in the area of Anfeh : Amioun Convent and Lady of Nourieh

**Batroun**
Attractions in the area of Batroun: The Mseilha Fort and Smar Jbeil castle

**Byblos**
Attractions in the area of Byblos: Adonis Valley, Jabal Moussa and Mbaaj Grotto

**Jounieh**
Attractions in the area of Jounieh: Harissa, Jeita Grotto, and Nahr Al-Kalb

**Beirut**
Attractions in the area of Beirut: Deir al Qamar, Beiteddine, The Beit Mery Ruins, and Barouk

**Sidon**
Attractions in the area of Sidon: Echmoun, Maghdouche, the Beaufort Castle and Chhim

**Tyre**
Attractions in the area of Tyre: Sarafand, The Citadel of Tebnine, Umm al-Amad and Qana

**Baalbek**
Attractions in the area of Baalbek: Anjar, Niha, Kamid Al Lawz, Mount Hermon/Rashaya and Ferzoul




http://lcf.lau.edu.lb/activities/projects/phoenician-route.php



Byblos



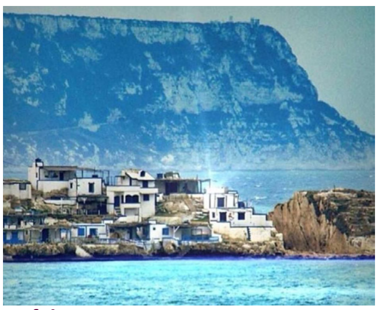
Jounieh



Baalbek



Tyre



Anfeh



Beirut



Sidon



Tripoli



Batroun

# TYRE



Built around 2700 BC, **TYRE** is the home of Elissar, the Phoenician princess who founded Carthage, as well as the home of Europa who was abducted by Zeus disguised as a white bull.
Two main archeological sites – Al Bass and Al Mina – are testimony to its historical significance. Tyre was originally made up of two settlements, one on the mainland and the other on an island, which were connected by a causeway. In Tyre, the remains of the Hellenistic and Roman city – a triumphal arch, a hippodrome and paved streets – are well preserved. The paved road passes under the imposing triumphal arch to the hippodrome, which can hold up to 20,000 spectators.
Tyre is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

**Attractions in the area of Tyre: On the way between Sidon and Tyre there is Sarafand (Phoenician Sarepta), the Citadel of Tebnine, Umm Al-Amad and Qana.**



**Sarafand** (Sarepta), is a major Phoenician site located between Sidon and Tyre. It is now a fishing town and a touristic attraction because of its restaurants. The site was well studied and excavated from 1969-1974 by the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania. Some of the finds are housed in the National Museum of Beirut.



**The Citadel of Tebnine** (Toron) is a Crusader Castle built in 1105. The fortress witnessed many battles throughout its history.



Located on the eastern shoulder of the Naqoura Sea in South Lebanon, **Umm Al-Amad** encompasses layers of tangible Greek civilization artifacts. Although it was discovered by a French explorer in 1772, it was not excavated until 1861. The city of more than 60,000 square meters still bears witness to an important historical period and tells of architectural art and precision in engraving and sculpture with tools dating back to the Iron Age, so named after the discovery of iron nearly 3,000 years ago. Umm Al-Amad's two temples were built roughly between 287 and 222 BC.



**Qana** (Cana), located at 13 km from Tyre. It is believed that this is the village where Jesus performed his first miracle, turning water into wine.

# SIDON



**SIDON**, south of Beirut, is known for its multi-layered sea citadel. Founded in the fourth millennium BC, it is one of three major port city-states of the Canaanite/Phoenician epoch, cited 35 times in the Old Testament. In its long history, it has been home to the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Mamluks and Ottomans.

**Attractions in the area of Sidon: Echmoun, Maghdouche, the Beaufort Castle and Chhim**



**Echmoun**, a Phoenician temple dedicated to the god of healing (hence the name), is located at the entrance of Sidon. It is considered one of the best-preserved Phoenician temples in Lebanon.



**Maghdouche** is known for Our Lady of the Guard Church containing a grotto, where it is believed the Virgin Mary stayed while Jesus visited the surrounding cities of the south.



**Beaufort Castle** is located 40 km from Sidon on an escarpment of almost 1000 meters above the valley. The castle was built as a defensive and strategic post for the Crusaders. Consecutively used by the Ayyubids, the Mamluks and Emir Fakhreddine, it was later restored during the French mandate following an earthquake.

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g5606246-d4076392-Reviews-Beaufort_Castle-Arnoun_Nabatieh_Governorate.html



**Chhim** has several landmarks around it such as the Temple of Eshmun, an ancient place of worship dedicated to Eshmun, the Phoenician god of healing. It is located near the Awali river. The site was occupied from the 7th century BCE to the 8th century CE, suggesting an integrated relationship with the nearby city of Sidon.

# BEIRUT



**BEIRUT**, the capital and the largest city of Lebanon, has hosted successive historic periods of major powers and civilizations in the Mediterranean and West Asia. It has layers of Phoenician, Roman, Byzantine, Mamluk, Ottoman and French mandate periods. Today's archaeological highlights include a Phoenician port, several Roman remains of a hippodrome, baths and temples.

## Attractions in the area of Beirut: Deir El Qamar and Beiteddine, The Beit Mery Ruins and Barouk



**Deir El Qamar and Beiteddine** are known for the Mamluk-inspired Fakhreddine Mosque, the Yousef Chehab Palace, the Kharj Barracks, the Palace of Fakhreddine II Ma'ani, its Synagogue, Saydet el Talle Church and the Emir Bashir Palace. Rmeileh and Jiyyeh are known for their beautiful sandy beach resorts.



**The Beit Mery Ruins** is a site rich with ancient Roman and Byzantine remains, as well as the historic Maronite Monastery of Saint John the Baptist which was built in 1750. Phoenician and Roman temples were erected in this same general area in what is now known as Deir El-Qala'a.



**Barouk** is a village in the Chouf District of Lebanon. Historically, the village is known for being the "land of good," by virtue of its fountain (Nabeh-el-Barouk). Barouk is crowned by its mountain Jabal el Barouk that stands at 1943 m above sea level. The mountain also has the largest natural reserve in Lebanon, the Al Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, and boasts the oldest and most elegant cedar forest in Lebanon, the Cedrus Libani.

# JOUNIEH



During the Phoenician period, the bay of **JOUNIEH** was an important winter shelter for ships sailing from the south to Byblos; hence its name Palaebyblus (literary before Byblos). It is mentioned in the geography described by the Greek historian, Strabo.

http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/44884

Nowadays, Jounieh is a main coastal city between Beirut and Byblos. It is known for its seaside resorts, the Casino du Liban, the Ottoman and French Colonial Old Souq in the center of the city, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon as a main religious tourist destination.

**Jounieh may also serve as additional attractions for both Beirut and Byblos.**
**Attractions in the area of Jounieh: The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, Jeita and Nahr Al-Kalb.**



**The Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon** draws millions of believers, both Christian and Muslim, from all over the world. The 50$^{th}$ jubilee in 1954 was also the 100$^{th}$ anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception. During these celebrations, Pope Pius XII sent his representative, Cardinal Angelo Roncalli (later to become Pope John XXIII) to Lebanon. Pope John Paul II visited Our Lady of Lebanon in 1997.



**Jeita** located about 20 Km north of Beirut there are the Jeita Grotto, a place that offers a spectacle of rare beauty. Jeita Grotto, is the longest karst limestone cave in Lebanon, (9 kilometers). A major tourist destination in Lebanon, Jeita Grotto was a finalist in the New 7 wonders of Nature competition for the year of 2011.



**Nahr Al-Kalb** is the ancient Lycus River. Past generals and conquerors have traditionally built monuments at the mouth of the river, known as the commemorative stelae of Nahr el-Kalb. In 2005, the stelae were listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World initiative.

# BYBLOS



**JBEIL** (Ancient Byblos) is known for its historical port that hosted the trade between Ancient Egypt and the Eastern Mediterranean. Byblos is considered one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and, according to the Phoenician writer Sanchuniathon, the first city of the Phoenicians.

https://lcf.lau.edu.lb/foundation/byblos.php

Today, it is a typical Middle Eastern city (with its enchanting souq and Medieval port near the Phoenician port) visited mainly for its archaeological area, accessible through a castle built in the 12th century with stone blocks retrieved from Roman buildings. It preserves the remains of the ancient Amorite city, the famous Temple of Obelisks of the Phoenician era and a Roman amphitheater.

Byblos is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

**Attractions in the area of Byblos: Adonis Valley, Jabal Moussa and Mebaaj Grotto.**



**Adonis Valley** is south of Byblos and Jabal Moussa. An Ottoman bridge and a Roman aqueduct cross over the Adonis River. According to legend, this is where the Phoenician/ Greek god Adonis was killed by a wild boar while hunting.



**Jabal Moussa**, where recent excavations were discovered, is one of the very few sites in Lebanon that exist in mountainous areas (hinterland heritage) and was inhabited during the Canaanite/Phoenician, Bronze Age, Medieval and Ottoman periods. The area is managed by Jabal Moussa–UNESCO Biosphere Nature Reserve.

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/arab-states/lebanon/jabal-moussa/



**Mebaaj Grotto** is made up of ponds and lakes, and is believed to be 30 to 40 million years old. While the accessible area in the grotto is 220 meters long, its total length is estimated at 4500 meters.

# BATROUN



**BATROUN**, derived from the Greek Botrys, was founded by the Phoenicians on the southern side of the promontory called Theoprosopon *(Râs ach-Chaq'a)* in Antiquity, and Cape Lithoprosopon during the Byzantine Empire. The city was under Roman rule to Phoenice Prima province and later, after the region was Christianized, became a suffragan of the Patriarchate of Antioch.

**Attractions in the area of Batroun: The Mseilha Fort and Smar Jbeil Castle .**




**The Mseilha Fort** is a fortification situated 5.5 km north of the city of Batroun. The current fort was built by Emir Fakhreddine II in the 17th century to guard the route from Tripoli to Beirut. Resting on a long, narrow limestone rock near the Nahr el-Jawz River, its walls are constructed with small sandstone blocks quarried from the nearby coast and built onto the edge of the rock.



**Smar Jbeil** is a small agglomeration situated in the region of Batroun in North Lebanon at an altitude of 500m, between Rashana and Douma. The name is of Phoenician origin and means Guardian of Jbeil. One of the most ancient towns in Lebanon, Smar Jbeil has a Phoenician citadel which was used by the Romans, who left inscriptions on the northern wall. The Crusaders, for their part, built basements around its two towers and a church on the side facing north. Wells and deep underground galleries were also dug in the living rock.

# ANFEH



**ANFEH** is a town in the Koura district of the North Governorate of Lebanon. It is located 13.5 km north of Batroun and 15 km south of Tripoli. It is among the coastal Phoenician cities and towns that still exist today in Lebanon.

Prior to the recent excavation, Anfeh was thought to have been founded around 1300 BC, but the pottery, which dates to 3200 BC, provides compelling evidence that the town was once a much older and significant city in antiquity.

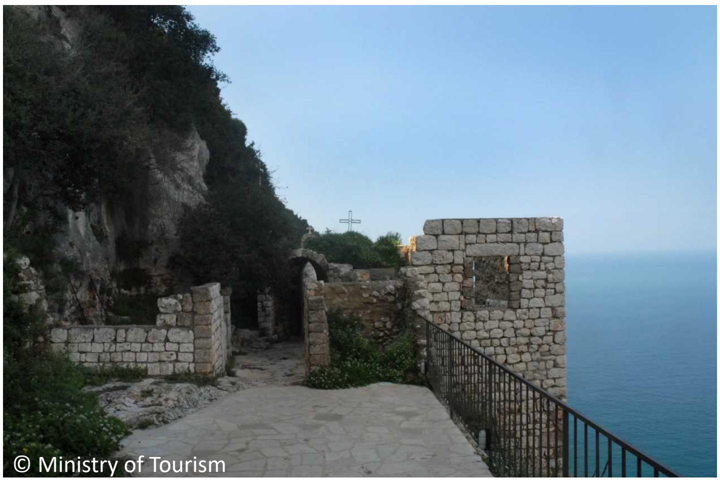
The remains of these civilizations include Phoenician and Roman walls, wine presses, mosaics, places of worship, caves, water tanks, and steps. A wide area of Anfeh and its surroundings are covered with salines, and the production of sea salt, “white gold,” is a staple of the local economy.

https://www.the961.com/anfeh-lebanon-photos/

**Attraction in the area of Anfeh : Amioun Convent and Lady of Nourieh**



**Amioun** is a very old settlement whose history can be traced back to the Paleolithic period. This is supported by the number of small caves built in the old city’s rocks. The ancient Semitic peoples are thought to have arrived in the region around 4000 BC. Saint John “Al-Sheer” is a church perched on the rocky cliff over a number of vaults in the southeastern facade of the cliff.





**Lady of Nourieh**, *Saydet el Nourieh* in Arabic, is a Marian shrine in Hamat, Lebanon. Nourieh is a derivative of the Arabic word, *Nour*, meaning light. Thus, in English, the Marian shrine can be called the Lady of Light.

# TRIPOLI



**TRIPOLI**, founded by the Phoenicians around 800 BC is today the second largest city and main port in Lebanon. Like Beirut, the city witnessed the presence of various Mediterranean cultures and empires including the Canaanites/Phoenicians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Umayyad, Abbasid, Crusaders, Ayyubid, Mamluks, Ottoman and French.

Facing the shores of the city there are the Palm Islands, which known for its green turtles, and which was declared a Protected Nature Reserve by the UNESCO in 1992.

**Attractions in the area of Tripoli: Becharri, Wadi Qadish, Menjez and Arqa**



**Becharri** is a town to the east of Tripoli, and it is in the area where the infamous cedar Forest of Lebanon are located. These forests known from the Bible to the Ottoman period as a major source for woods to construct large audience halls in antiquities, and which were essential to forge good relations between Ancient Egypt and the city of Byblos.



**Wadi Qadisha** is a valley known for being a sacred destination where one can visit several monasteries carved into the sides of its rocky hills.
Wadi Qadisha (the Holy Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars heritage sites are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1998).




**Menjez** has an exceptional archaeological heritage site in Lebanon and includes a Roman basalt temple called Maqam Er Rabb or Beit Jaalouk, the only basalt in Lebanon.



**Arqa** (Phoenician: Irqata; ‘Arqat in the Bible) is a village near Miniara in Akkar Governorate, Lebanon, 22 km northeast of Tripoli, near the coast. The former bishopric became a double Catholic titular see (Latin and Maronite). The Roman Emperor Alexander Severus was born there. It is significant for the Tell Arqa, an archaeological site that goes back to Neolithic times, and during the Crusades there was a strategically significant castle.

# BAALBEK



Founded by the Phoenicians, **BAALBEK** was later conquered by the Macedonians who called it Heliopolis (always the City of the Sun) for assimilation between the Sun god and the Phoenician divinity Baal. It later became a Roman colony under Augustus, preserving the new name. Today you can see three main buildings: the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Bacchus and the circular Temple of Venus. A fourth monument, the Temple of Mercury, is located on the hill of Sheikh Abdallah. In July and August, the International Baalbek Festival hosts leading international, regional and local performers and musicians.

Baalbek is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).

**Attractions in the area of Baalbek: Anjar, Niha, Kamid Al Lawz, Mount Hermon/Rashaya and Ferzoul**



**Anjar** was founded by Caliph Walid Ibn 'Abd al-Malak around 705 AD. The Umayyads built it and turned it into an important commercial center as it linked Damascus, Homs, Baalbek and the Palestinian plains. It shined for only 20 to 30 years. Anjar displays a good example of early Islamic architecture and its influence by Roman-Byzantine architecture. This is clearly visible in the various construction techniques and decorations in the city. Anjar is a heritage site inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List (1984).



**Niha** Roman Temples are two temples dedicated to the Canaanite goddess of fertility Atargatis (Phoenician Astarte), the god of thunder, lightning and rain Hadaranes, and their son. It is also known for Hosn Niha, a structure of many layers the latest of which is a small Byzantine Basilica.



**Kamid Al Lawz** is one of the most important sites in Lebanon where archaeologists found and recorded many spectacular buildings, which are significant to the history of the region. Paleolithic material was found alongside Heavy Neolithic through to the late Neolithic period, and evidence suggests that it became a seat of state in the Bronze Age until the Byzantine era. A German team from the University of Freiburg has conducted more recent excavations and studies.



**Mount Hermon/Rashaya** region is a significant cultural heritage site in the eastern mountain terrain. The temples which circled Hermon were oriented to the cone-shaped tip of Kasr es-Sebayb, the highest point of the mountain and the site of a sacred enclosure in Roman and pre-Roman time. The temples which circle Hermon are, from the south: Hebbariya, Ain Harsha, Ain Libbaya, Nebi Safa, Akbeh, Aiha, Beka, Khirbet el-Knese, Yanta, Deir el-Ashayr, Rahle, Burkush, and Er-Rime.



**Ferzoul**, there are many caves on a hill in the north-east of the village in the time of the Byzantines, they were transformed into hermitages for the anchorites; a whole region is known as the plural: The caves of the hermits.